

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A carbon fine powder coated with a ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, a ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or a ~~metal~~ manganese carbide, in which a thin film layer of the ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, the ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or the ~~metal~~ manganese carbide is uniformly coated on the surface of the carbon fine powder having a large specific surface area.

Claims 2 (Currently Amended): The carbon fine powder coated with a ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, a ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or a ~~metal~~ manganese carbide according to claim 1, wherein the thin film layer of the ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, the ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or the ~~metal~~ manganese carbide to be coated has a thickness of from 1 nm to 1,000 nm.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The carbon fine powder coated with a ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, a ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or a ~~metal~~ manganese carbide according to claim 1, wherein the specific surface area of the carbon fine powder is from 50 m²/g to 3,500 m²/g.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The carbon fine powder coated with a ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, a ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or a ~~metal~~ manganese carbide according to claim 1, wherein the ~~metal~~ manganese oxide, the ~~metal~~ manganese nitride or the ~~metal~~ manganese carbide in the thin film layer has a crystal structure of a crystalline phase, an amorphous phase or a microcrystalline phase.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide, which comprises irradiating an ultrasonic wave on a dispersion comprising a metal oxide fine particle, a metal nitride or metal carbide, a carbon fine particle and a solvent to cause a sonochemical reaction on the surface of the carbon fine particle to thereby uniformly forming a thin film layer of the metal fine particle on the surface of the carbon fine particle.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The process for producing a carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to claim 6, wherein the ultrasonic wave has a frequency of from 1 kHz to 1 MHz, and the irradiated ultrasonic wave in the solution has an energy density of from 1 mW/cm³ to 1 kW/cm³.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The process for producing a carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the solvent is one or at least two selected from the groups consisting of water, alcohol, ketone, ether, ester, organic acid, amine and amino alcohol.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A supercapacitor which uses the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 as a charge-accumulating and -releasing material.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor according to claim 9, which uses an electrode in which a resin composition comprising the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 is molded.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor according to claim 9, which uses an electrode in which a reticulate mesh of an electrode metal is coated with a resin composition comprising the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide and is dried.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor using the electrode according to claim 10, wherein the resin is any one of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor using the electrode according to claim 10, wherein the resin further comprises a conductive material fine particle.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor using the electrode according to claim 10, wherein the conductive material is one or at least two of carbon, gold, silver, copper, nickel and palladium.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A supercapacitor which uses the electrode for a supercapacitor according to claim 10 as at least one of a cathode and an anode of the supercapacitor.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A supercapacitor which uses the carbon fin powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 as an interelectrode material between a cathode and an anode.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor according to claim 9, wherein an electrolyte is an aqueous electrolyte or a nonaqueous electrolyte.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The supercapacitor according to claim 17, which uses one or at least two selected from a proton, a lithium ion, a magnesium ion, a potassium ion, a sodium ion, a calcium ion, a barium ion, a yttrium ion, a lanthanum ion, an ammonium ion and an organoammonium ion as an electrolyte ion.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery which uses the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 as a charge-accumulating and -releasing material.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery which uses an electrode in which a resin composition comprising the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 is molded.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery according to claim 20, which uses an electrode in which a reticulate mesh of an electrode metal is coated with a resin composition comprising a carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide and is dried.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery using the electrode according to claim 20, wherein the resin is any one of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyethylene and polyporpylene.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery using the electrode according to claim 20, wherein the resin further comprises a conductive material fine particle.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery using the electrode according to claim 23, wherein the conductive material is one or at least two of carbon, gold, silver, copper, nickel and palladium.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery, which uses the electrode according to claim 19 or 20 as a cathode or an anode.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A high-performance secondary battery, wherein uses the carbon fine powder coated with a metal oxide, a metal nitride or a metal carbide according to any one of claims 1 to 5 as an interelectrode between a cathode and an anode.